

## NEWS.

MR. M. A. CARLETON is on his way back to America after a tour through Russia under the auspices of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

MM. CASIMIR and Lucien de Candolle have presented to the University of Geneva a bronze bust of Alphonse de Candolle, the work of the sculptor Bovy.

DR. BENGT JÖNSSON, previously docent, has been appointed assistant professor of botany in the University of Lund, in charge of anatomy, physiology, and ecology.

MR. A. A. HELLER, who is collecting in Puerto Rico, reports good success. He finds the roads excellent, making it very easy to reach all parts of the island by using a bicycle.

DR. M. RACIBORSKI has left the Experiment Station for sugar cane in Kagok Tegal and has been appointed to a post at Buitenzorg, in charge of investigations upon tobacco.

MR. B. T. GALLOWAY has returned to Washington, D. C., from an extended visit in California, where he had gone to regain health. He returns much improved, and is able largely to resume his duties as Chief of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology.

DR. RICHARD WETTSTEIN, Ritter von Westersheim, professor of botany in the German University of Prag, has been called to the professorship of systematic botany in the Imperial University of Vienna as successor to the late Anton Kerner, Ritter von Marilaun.

THE MUSEUM and laboratory building in the New York Botanical Garden is making fair progress toward completion. It is now entirely enclosed, and the partition walls and other rough interior work are mostly finished. The present outlook indicates that it will be ready for occupancy late in the spring. The foundations for the glass houses will be laid when the ground is free from frost.

OUR NOTE in the March number regarding the fire at the University of Geneva, based upon information obtained from *Nature* and the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, was fortunately incorrect. The Delessert herbarium was not housed in University buildings but at some distance, and it is unharmed.



Correspondents inform the *Gardeners' Chronicle* that "the fire broke out in the left wing of the University, and destroyed an apartment in which were some collections, diagrams, etc., relating to the Alpine flora, belonging to Professor Chodat. Some loan collections from foreign herbaria were likewise destroyed, as well as some physical instruments that had belonged to De Saussure."

THE historico-biographical work, entitled *The botanists of Philadelphia and their work*, by Dr. John W. Harshberger, instructor in botany in the University of Pennsylvania, is now ready for the press. It will be printed as soon as sufficient subscriptions have been secured. Philadelphia in colonial days was the scientific and literary center of America and the botanists of Philadelphia did much good and lasting scientific work. The book is a contribution to the history of the rise and development of botany in America; for many of our early botanists of historic importance were Philadelphians. It is to be illustrated by about fifty full page portraits.

WILHELM ENGELMANN, Leipzig, announces that he will begin publishing, in the course of the year, a work by Dr. C. G. De Dalla Torre and Dr. H. Harms, entitled *Genera Siphonogamarum*. It is to present a synopsis of the orders, families, genera and sections of the spermatophytes based upon Engler and Prantl's *Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien*. The important synonymy, references to the basal work, and various other conveniences are promised. Such a book will be a great convenience to systematists, and will be especially useful in arranging herbaria in accordance with a modern system. It will take a place similar to Durand's *Index Phanerogamarum*, which was based upon Bentham and Hooker's *Genera Plantarum*. The work will be issued in ten parts, of about 160 pages each.

THE FIELD WORK in the southern Rocky mountains, carried on in the La Plata region in 1898, by Messrs. Baker, Earle, and Tracy, will this year be extended into the San Juan region, the extreme eastern extension of the Great Basin watershed in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico. Last year the field work was limited to a month, and the plants were determined and issued under difficulties. However, they included many new phanerogams, while a third of the fungi were new. These sets went to the herbaria of Edinburgh, Kew, Berlin, New York, Washington, Chicago, St. Louis, and others. A full report of the 1898 work by Dr. E. L. Greene and Professor F. S. Earle will soon be issued. This year the field work will continue through the entire season in charge of Mr. C. F. Baker (now at St. Croix Falls, Wis.). A full report of results will be published as for 1898, and issued free to subscribers. If complete sets are not desired, selections may be made by groups or by single specimens.